

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTING: TV/RADIO - FEBRUARY

9-10, 1975

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

NO. 1

ALL THREE NETWORK MORNING TV NEWS PROGRAMS CARRIED CURTAIN-
RAISERS WHICH ARE REPEATED BELOW. ALSO INCLUDED IS KALB
RADIO SPOT FROM GERMANY AND TWO JIM ANDERSON OVER-NIGHTERS.

1. KALB (CBS-TV) -- ISRAEL IS KISSINGER'S FIRST STOP, THEN
FOUR ARAB COUNTRIES: EGYPT, SYRIA, JORDAN AND SAUDI
ARABIA. THE SECRETARY IS PLANNING A SHORT TRIP THIS TIME;
NO BACK-AND-FORTH SHUTTLES, NO BREAKTHROUGHS EXPECTED. IN
THAT CASE, WHY GO? THE OFFICIAL EXPLANATION HERE IS THAT
THE SECRETARY WANTS TO GET A PERSONAL FEEL FOR THE OUTSIDE
LIMITS OF POSSIBLE EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI COMPROMISE. THEN,
AFTER CONFERRING NEXT SUNDAY IN GENEVA WITH GROMYKO, THE
SECRETARY WILL RETURN TO WASHINGTON AND FIGURE OUT WHETHER
A SECOND STAGE AGREEMENT IN THE SINAI DESERT IS POSSIBLE.
HIS ANSWER IS PROBABLY GOING TO BE YES, BECAUSE HE IS AL-
READY PLANNING ANOTHER SWING THROUGH THE M.E. NEXT MONTH.

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THAT ONE WOULD BE FOR THE PURPOSE OF NAILING DOWN THE DE-

TAILS OF A DEAL -- ONE THAT THEN COULD BE RATIFIED IN A PROPER SPIRIT AT THE RECONVENED GENEVA CONFERENCE.

HOWEVER, IF IT TURNS OUT THAT KISSINGER FINDS BOTH SIDES VERY RIGID, OFFICIALS SAY HE MAY NOT GO BACK TO THE M.E. NEXT MONTH AND MAY, IN FACT, GIVE UP HIS STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO PEACE IN THE AREA AND DUMP THE ENTIRE PROBLEM INTO THE LAP OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. A DEADLOCK IS QUICKLY ASSURED THERE BECAUSE THE ARABS WOULD NATURALLY RAISE THE QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION. ISRAEL HAS ALREADY STATED SHE WILL NOT NEGOTIATE WITH THE PLO UNTIL THE PLO ABANDONS ITS POLICY OF SEEKING THE ELIMINATION OF ISRAEL.

THIS MAY ALL BE SCARE TACTICS, PART OF KISSINGER'S STRATEGY TO PRESSURE BOTH SIDES INTO MAKING THE COMPROMISES NECESSARY FOR A DEAL NOW. IN ANY CASE, THIS TRIP DOES SEEM CRITICALLY IMPORTANT IN TERMS OF DECIDING WHETHER ANOTHER WAR IN THE M.E. AND ANOTHER OIL EMBARGO CAN ACTUALLY BE HELD OFF.

2. VALERIANI (NBC "TODAY SHOW") -- SECRETARY KISSINGER GOT A TOP-LEVEL SENDOFF AS PRESIDENT FORD AND SEVERAL CABINET MEMBERS CAME OUT TO ANDREWS AFB TO WISH HIM WELL ON HIS 10TH TRIP TO THE M.E. SINCE OCTOBER 1973. MR. FORD'S PRESENCE WAS DESIGNED TO EMPHASIZE THE ADMINISTRATION'S CONTINUING CONFIDENCE IN KISSINGER DESPITE RECENT CONGRESSIONAL ATTACKS AS WELL AS TO UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE THE WHITE HOUSE ATTACHES TO THE GOAL OF ARRANGING SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT. THE PRESIDENT: "YOU HAVE MY STRONG BLESSING AND BEST WISHES, AND I THINK I EXPRESS THEM ON BEHALF OF TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTEEN MILLION AMERICANS WHO HAVE LOOKED AT THE RECORD AND KNOW THAT WHAT HAS BEEN DONE IN ACHIEVING AND MAINTAINING PEACE IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF ALL OF US."

IF KISSINGER IS SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING EGYPT AND ISRAEL TO START ANOTHER ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS, THEN HE WILL PROBABLY GO BACK TO THE M.E. NEXT MONTH TO SHUTTLE BETWEEN THOSE TWO COUNTRIES IN AN EFFORT TO NAIL DOWN AN ACTUAL AGREEMENT.

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MENT. IF HE IS NOT SUCCESSFUL THEN HE REPORTEDLY WILL GIVE UP THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT AND LEAVE THE NEGOTIATIONS TO THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE, A MOVE WHICH STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS SAY COULD DRASTICALLY CHANGE THE COURSE OF EVENTS IN THE M.E.

3. KOPPEL (ABC-TV "AMERICA") -- THE OBJECTIVE DIFFICULTIES OF NEGOTIATING A NEW SETTLEMENT IN THE M.E. ARE ACUTE

ENOUGH, MORE DIFFICULT NOW IN FACT THAN THEY WERE A YEAR AGO. BUT WHAT MAKES KISSINGER'S JOB EVEN MORE HERCULEAN THIS TIME AROUND IS THE KNOWLEDGE THAT HE LEAVES A SIGNIFICANTLY HOSTILE FACTION OF CONGRESS HERE AT HOME, THE

KNOWLEDGE THAT TIME IS RUNNING OUT IN THAT THE MANDATES FOR UN FORCES BOTH IN THE SINAI AND ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS EXPIRE IN JUST A FEW WEEKS, AND THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE SOVIET UNION ESPECIALLY WOULD BE ONLY TOO DELIGHTED TO CONTRIBUTE TO HIS FAILURE.

ALL OF THESE FACTORS HAVE CAUSED HIM TO TAKE THE VIEW THAT THIS TRIP AND ANOTHER, ALREADY SCHEDULED FOR MARCH, MAY BE HIS LAST RUN OF SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY IN THE M.E. IRONICALLY, IF THAT DOES NOT HAPPEN, IT WILL BE BECAUSE ISRAEL AND EGYPT CONTINUE TO REGARD HENRY KISSINGER AS THEIR LAST BEST HOPE FOR PEACE, AND IT WAS IN THAT CONTEXT THAT TO OFFSET THE WAVE OF NEGATIVISM THAT THREATENS TO ENGULF HENRY KISSINGER, PRESIDENT FORD CAME OUT TO ANDREWS LAST NIGHT TO PUBLICLY WISH HIS SECRETARY OF STATE SUCCESS.

4. JIM ANDERSON (GROUP W RADIO) -- ONCE AGAIN, HENRY KISSINGER IS HEADING BACK TOWARD THE M.E., THIS TIME TRYING TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES OF A FURTHER STAGE OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWALS ON THE SINAI FRONT. HE WILL VISIT FIVE M.E. COUNTRIES. . . . AFTER THAT HE HEADS TO EUROPE, FOR A MEETING WITH GROMYKO AND TALKS IN LONDON, PARIS AND BONN.

NONE OF KISSINGER'S TRIPS EVER TURN OUT EXACTLY AS EXPECTED, BUT THIS ONE HAS SHARPLY LIMITED GOALS: HE SAYS HE WANTS TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES OF A SOLUTION, NOT TO UNCLASSIFIED

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ARRIVE AT THE SOLUTION ITSELF. HE ALSO SAYS THAT HE WOULDN'T BE GOING IF HE DIDN'T THINK THERE WAS A GOOD CHANCE OF SUCCEEDING AT THAT LIMITED GOAL. THERE ARE NEW ELEMENTS IN THE M.E. SINCE LAST YEAR, WHEN KISSINGER ACHIEVED SUCH SPECTACULAR SUCCESS WITH HIS SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY. THE SOVIETS ARE APPARENTLY EAGER TO GET BACK INTO THE PICTURE; THE SYRIANS ARE BECOMING MORE IMPATIENT WITH THE SLOW PACE OF KISSINGER'S DIPLOMACY - OR AT LEAST THEY ARE GIVING THAT IMPRESSION. AND THE ISRAELIS ARE WONDERING IF THE END RESULT OF ALL THIS IS GOING TO BE GOOD FOR THEM. THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT IS INCREASINGLY DIVIDED OVER THE WISDOM OF TRUSTING TO KISSINGER'S DIPLOMACY -- A PROCESS THAT IS ALSO OCCURRING WITHIN THE AMERICAN CONGRESS.

5. JAMES ANDERSON (GROUP W RADIO) -- HENRY KISSINGER IS

OFF AGAIN, ON ONE OF HIS FLYING M.E. TOURS. THE MAGIC CARPET IS A BLUE-AND-WHITE BOEING 707, CRAMMED WITH COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, STAFF AIDES, SECRET SERVICE MEN AND 14 NEWSMEN. HIS MAGIC -- IF THERE IS ANY -- CONSISTS OF HIS PROVEN REPUTATION FOR TALKING TO BOTH SIDES, IN CONFIDENCE, AND FINDING THE ELEMENTS OF COMPROMISE IN WHAT SEEMS TO BE AN IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION -- THE SMOLDERING

DISPUTE BETWEEN THE ARABS AND THE ISRAELIS. THIS TIME HIS TRIP HAS A SHARPLY LIMITED GOAL: TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES OF AN AGREEMENT, ESPECIALLY BETWEEN THE EGYPTIANS AND THE ISRAELIS. HE FEELS BOTH SIDES ARE READY TO MOVE, BUT THEY ARE NOT ALONE IN THIS TANGLED CONFRONTATION. IF THE EGYPTIANS IGNORE THEIR SYRIAN AND JORDANIAN FRIENDS, THERE WILL BE TROUBLE IN THE ARAB WORLD, AND THAT MEANS FUTURE TROUBLE FOR KISSINGER.

HE MUST ALSO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE LOOMING PRESENCE OF THE SOVIET UNION, ANXIOUS TO PROFIT FROM ANY OF KISSINGER'S MISTAKES, AND THE FACT THAT THE AMERICAN INFLUENCE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN HAS BEEN SHARPLY DIMINISHED SINCE THE CYPRUS CRISIS. HIS LIFE IS FURTHER COMPLICATED BY THE FACT THAT HIS DOMESTIC SUPPORT IS ONCE AGAIN ERODING. CONGRESS USED TO FOLLOW WHERE KISSINGER LED; NOT ANY MORE. CONGRESS WANTS TO BE KEPT INFORMED AND CONSULTED. DEMOCRACY IS WONDERFUL, BUT IT MAKES FOR CUMBERSOME DIPLOMACY AND UNCLASSIFIED

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HENRY KISSINGER IS AN IMPATIENT MAN.

6. KALB (CBS RADIO) -- BEFORE KISSINGER EVEN FORMALLY LAUNCHES THIS TRIP TO THE M.E., WHICH PRESIDENT FORD DESCRIBED AS "EXTREMELY DELICATE AND EXTREMELY IMPORTANT," HE ALREADY KNOWS WHEN HE IS GOING TO RETURN: MARCH 10, GIVE OR TAKE A DAY. THAT SUGGESTS THAT THE SECRETARY MAY BE FURTHER ALONG ON ARRANGING AN EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DEAL ON THE SINAI THAN ANY AMERICAN OFFICIAL IS ADMITTING.

NEVERTHELESS, KISSINGER CONTINUES TO DESCRIBE THIS TRIP AS EXPLORATORY. AFTER THE TRIP HE SAYS HE WILL RETURN TO WASHINGTON TO FORMULATE AN AMERICAN VIEW AND THEN RETURN TO THE M.E. TO CONCLUDE THE NEGOTIATIONS. CONCLUDE IS HIS VERB. IF THE SECRETARY IS SUCCESSFUL NEXT MONTH, THEN HE SUSPECTS THE DEAL WILL BE RATIFIED AT A RECONVENED GENEVA CONFERENCE IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF HOPE AND OPTIMISM. FOR THE TIME BEING, KISSINGER IS KNOWN TO FEEL THAT ISRAEL CANNOT CONTINUE TO GIVE BACK OCCUPIED ARAB LAND WITHOUT GETTING SOMETHING IN RETURN, PERHAPS A TWO- OR THREE-YEAR PLEDGE OF PEACE. THE SECRETARY OPENS THIS TRIP IN ISRAEL LATER TODAY.

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